

EDITORIAL

This issue of the journal tackles the issue of censorship in a variety of ways. Whether the refusal to speak out about issues is enforced by a government, an academic institution or personally, the result is the same: a harming of the human spirit from the deprivation of free speech and free thought. There are many forms of censorship; not just the suppression of publishing outlets or the refusal to print material that an editor or publisher finds uncomfortable or inconvenient.

Tom Cohen, the author of the first article, is organizing the first forum in China on the role of the humanities in combating climate change. His article focuses on the catastrophic impact on the humanities and on the wider climate from the refusal of certain academics to look to the future in their thinking. Yossapol Chutipanyabut's article examines the reasons for the stunted growth of Thai films as a result of the overwhelming cultural impact of Hollywood films and offers ways to address the situation so as to encourage more successful Thai films both in the local and international arenas. Lusia Neti Harwati explores the ways indigenous cultural practices in Indonesia that seek to protect the environment may be used to resist and channel the destructive economic impact of globalization, while Ajay K. Chaubrey discusses the various controversies around V.S. Naipaul that seek to box that writer in and deny his place in the literary canon. Stephen Conlon looks at the ways Michael Wilding's work has been marginalized to an extent in the field of Australian literature and links this to his turn away from postmodernism which resulted in him being ignored by the dominant strands now found in academic discourse. In part, the essay is a response to the publication of an excerpt from the forthcoming documentary in the previous issue of this journal.

In the reviews section, the work of Steve Jacobs and Kirsten Krauth, two new Australian writers, is published. Their work seems to herald a new emphasis in Australian writing that returns it to the themes of sexuality that have been repressed in the PoCo-dominated public discourses over recent decades. In this new stress, the earlier work of Wilding which had been banned in certain states makes an interesting link. Stories by two Vu TrongPhung and Nam Cao that have remained untranslated in English up to now are published in English through translations by QuanManh Ha.

The first review is of a work that has been out of print for some time, but is freshly published. It looks at the forgotten overlooked impact of Chinese literature in the Asian context. One reason for this may be the overwhelming influence of English language books in the region that have commercially and intellectually silenced voices from other traditions and cultures. The second review discusses a work that seeks to explore the uneasy relationship between the Singapore government and the press which also has an impact on academic thought in that state.

Hopefully from the wide range of issues offered in this number of the journal, readers may appreciate the many subtle and not-so-subtle ways our thoughts are being manipulated. We need a wide ranging approach to this issue if the humanities are to offer resistance to the dehumanizing forces around us that seek to marginalize us by ignoring us...the easiest way to suppress the opinions of those we disagree with.

Stephen Conlon

Editor